

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 2. (canceled)

1 3. (currently amended) The bone screw according to
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein in the second screwthread portion and in
3 the third screwthread portion every 360° several recesses are
4 formed.

1 4. (previously presented) The bone screw according to
2 claim 3 wherein every 360° three recesses are formed.

1 5. (currently amended) The bone screw according to
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein each recess extends as a chord toward the
3 screw shank from the cutting edges of the second screwthread
4 portion and of the third screwthread portion and joins in an arc
5 again the respective cutting edge.

1 6. (currently amended) The bone screw according to
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein the screw shank has a cylindrical form.

1 7. (currently amended) The bone screw according to
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein the screw shank has a tapered form.

1 8. (currently amended) The bone screw according to
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein the first screwthread portion comprises
3 three turns.

1 9. (currently amended) The bone screw according to
2 claim [[11]] 12 wherein the second screwthread portion comprises
3 three turns.

1 10. (currently amended) The bone screw according to
2 claim [[7]] 12 wherein [[the]] lengths of the cutting edges of the
3 turns of the second screwthread portion are constant.

11. (canceled)

1 12. (currently amended) A bone screw comprising:
2 an elongated shank having a free end and at an opposite
3 end a screw head;
4 a screwthread extending generally helically along the
5 shank from the free end toward the screw head and itself having
6 a first screwthread portion extending from the free
7 end toward the screw head forming a generally
8 continuous and smooth cutting edge,
9 a second screwthread portion extending from the
10 first portion toward the screw head and formed
11 of a plurality of turns each formed with at

12 least one outwardly open recess, the recesses
13 being of increasing angular dimension away from
14 the free end, and

15 a third screwthread portion extending from the
16 second portion to [[ward]] the screw head and
17 formed of a plurality of turns each formed with
18 at least one outwardly open recesses, all of
19 the recesses of the third portion being of
20 generally the same angular dimension.

1 13. (previously presented) The bone screw defined in
2 claim 12 wherein the angular dimension of the recesses of the third
3 portion corresponds substantially to the angular dimension of that
4 turn of the second portion closest to the third portion.